tude was displayed for agriculture, the basis of the state's prosperity. Millet was the chief grain. Wheat, probably introduced from abroad, was raised. The wheel was employed in peace and war. There were buildings, some of them fairly large and with wooden pillars.

The army was organized probably, although not certainly, with cavalry, chariots, and infantry. The Shang seem to have introduced the chariot. At times fairly large forces were put in the field. We know of one army of at least five thousand. Iron was not yet injuse, but some of the many implements and utensils of bronze have come down to our own day. These, especially the sacrificial vessels and bells and the designs and figures OP them, display a skill in casting which has seldom, if ever, been surpassed. They are superior to those of the succeeding dynasty, and their vigor and boldness of conception and execution give indications of genius. There were stone sculptures, some of them vigorous and beautiful.

Religion continued to have a large place in the life of the state. Ancestors were greatly revered. Sacrifices were made to the rivers and the earth. Divination was extensively practiced, the wishes of the spiritual powers being consulted on every important occasioi^vThe stars were supposed to be intimately connected with the affairs'Of men, and a kind of astronomy existed. Much was made of the calendar. The highest god was Shang Ti. Numerous ceremonies were maintained for ancestors and divinities. Human sacrifices, sometimes on a large scale, appear to have been common.

The territory of the Shang rulers probably included only the valley of the Yellow River from the foot, of the Shansi plateau to

the mountains of Shantung and to the valley of the Huai—that is to say, parts of the present provinces of Honan, Hopei, and Shantung. It is uncertain whether it reached the coast, although it had at least indirect touch with the sea. Toward the middle or close of the dynasty, colonies probably moved out into the surrounding country, conquering the barbarians and forming settlements in some of the hill country and in the valleys of the Wei and Fen, in modern Shensi and Shansi. This expansion led to the establishment of hereditary principalities on the frontiers—little states ruled by the families who had founded them. Shang